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Character Co EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

February 8, 2001

Mr. David Waddell **Executive Secretary** Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

> In Re: Docket No. 00-00691 - Sprint Communications Company L.P. Arbitration with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Because of scheduling considerations in multiple arbitration proceedings in other jurisdictions, counsel for Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint") has discussed with counsel for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") the possibility of the parties waiving objection to the Authority rendering its decision in this arbitration outside the nine-month period for state Commission decision prescribed by 47 U.S.C. 252(b)(4)(C). Accordingly, counsel for Sprint and BellSouth have agreed to waive the nine-month deadline for decision, and respectfully request that the Commission schedule hearings in this matter after the week of April 23, 2001.

I am authorized to state that counsel for BellSouth concurs with the requests stated herein. Enclosed are an original and fourteen (14) copies of this letter. Also included is an extra copy, which I would ask that you please date stamp and return to me in the enclosed reply envelope. Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and please call me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

James B. Wright

Enclosures cc: Guy Hicks

> E. Earl Edenfield, Jr. William R. Atkinson